

and significant and those needs are not being addressed?

These are serious questions, they need to be asked, and that is one of our most important duties as Members of the House of Representatives, to raise these questions. Why is the leadership of this House not raising these questions? Why are we not engaged in those hearings? Why are we not trying to get to the bottom of this matter? That is the responsibility of the people who operate this House of Representatives.

I call upon the leadership to engage in a concerted and directed effort to find the answer to this question: Why did we go to war? Why did we engage in this so-called preventive war, when the President now has admitted there was no connection between September 11 and the government in Iraq, when no so-called weapons of mass destruction have been found. Therefore, the stated reasons of the administration for engaging in this war have been shown to have absolutely no legitimacy, yet the costs of this action are substantial, in human life and in treasure. We must get to the bottom of this.

THE COST OF THE WAR IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, it has been a year since the President began pressing to invade Iraq. At the time, many of us pressed the President to fully account for the cost of his planned war. Most Americans would agree that if the issue of Iraq was important enough to start a war over, it was important enough to pay for.

For a year, Congress has asked for hard numbers on the cost of occupying and rebuilding Iraq, and for a year the President has given us nothing but blandishments and pie-in-the-sky forecasts. At the time, experts, including the President's own chief economist, predicted the war and reconstruction would cost as much as \$200 billion. But the President and his aides actively downplayed those numbers, saying it would only cost around \$50 billion.

Well, guess what? Last week the President finally admitted that he had low-balled the cost of the war when selling it to Congress a year ago. The President is now asking for an additional \$87 billion, billion with a B, to extricate our troops from what is beginning to look like a quagmire.

Let me be perfectly clear: The current situation in Iraq should not have come as any surprise to anyone in this administration or in this Congress. Last fall, the Chief of Staff of the United States Army, General Eric Shinseki, told Congress that it would require close to 300,000 troops to secure Iraq after toppling Saddam. Today, only about half that number are in Iraq. As the toll of American soldiers killed in the occupation of Iraq rises,

our young men and women in uniform are paying the price of trying to wage war on the cheap.

I was just reading a news report referring to a young man from Micronesia, Hilario Bermanis, II, and how he was injured in Iraq. He has lost an eye, an arm and both legs. He is being honored by being made an American citizen. And a few weeks earlier, the proposal was made to reduce veterans' services. I cannot understand that.

This additional \$87 billion comes on top of the \$78.5 billion Congress gave the President just 5 months ago, bringing the grand total so far to \$165 billion, and we would cut the cost of veterans' services.

If that sounds like a lot of money, hold on to your hat for this piece of information: A recent analysis by the Committee on the Budget shows that the entire cost for rebuilding Iraq could rise to as much as \$400 billion over the next 5 years.

Now, this new \$87 billion alone is a big number by itself. That is a number most people will never encounter at any point in their lives. So it is important to put these numbers into context.

Eighty-seven billion dollars is more than twice what the President requested to protect the United States from the terrorist attack that might come at any time. Eighty-seven billion dollars is about three times what the request was for highway and road construction across the country next year. Eighty-seven billion dollars is about twice the net worth, not annual income, but total net worth of America's wealthiest man, Bill Gates. Eighty-seven billion dollars is almost six times the profits of America's largest corporation, General Electric. Eighty-seven billion dollars is more than \$300 for every man, woman and child in the United States of America. That is a lot of money to spend on a country halfway around the world, when our local schools, hospitals, fire and police departments are struggling to make ends meet.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WYNN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO JOHN H. JOHNSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, America is indeed a land blessed with many treasures and foremost among them are people. Some countries, for example, such as Japan, have formal programs to honor citizens which they classify as "national treasures." We have no such formal program, but I take this opportunity to acknowledge such an individual.

This evening I want to highlight one of America's great national treasures who lives in my district, John H. Johnson.

John H. Johnson was born, a descendant of slaves, to extremely modest circumstances in Arkansas City, Arkansas, in 1918. John's father died when he was very young. His mother, Gertrude Johnson Williams, worked as a domestic and levee cook.

It was a time when Jim Crow law defined life in the South. Arkansas schools did not permit African Americans admittance to high school and, under normal conditions of the day, John Johnson's education would have ended with the eighth grade. However, Gertrude Johnson would not accept normal circumstances, and moved with her family to Chicago in 1933.

John enrolled at DuSable High School and became an honor student, class president, student council president and editor of the school newspaper and the yearbook. He taught himself public speaking by standing in front of a mirror at home. Among his classmates at DuSable were Nat King Cole, Redd Foxx and William Abernathy.

He won a scholarship to attend the University of Chicago at night while working for the Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Company, owned by African American businessman Harry Pace. His job at Supreme Liberty came as a result of his public speaking talent after Pace heard him speak at an Urban League event.

One of his tasks at Supreme was the collection and organization of news of the African American community into a weekly digest. The black press of the day, such as the Chicago Defender and the Pittsburgh Courier, was a kind of national nerve system, transmitting information to every corner of every community where African Americans lived.

John appreciated the value of the news he was collecting and, in 1942, he launched his first magazine, Negro Digest. The \$500 he used as seed money for his new venture came from his mother, who pawned their furniture. The first issue sold 3,000 copies. Within one year, circulation hit 50,000.

By 1945, he launched his second magazine, Ebony, which highlighted the achievements of African Americans. Six years later he began publishing a news magazine of African American politics, entertainment, business and sports: Jet.

Today, Johnson Publishing is headquartered in an 11-story building, located at 820 South Michigan Avenue in Chicago's Loop. The last time I looked, Johnson Publishing had annual revenues of some \$425 million and more than 2,000 employees. Ebony now has a readership of more than 11 million, and Jet enjoys a readership in excess of eight million. Together, it is estimated these periodicals are read in half the black households in America.

Today the book division of Johnson Publishing is home to such authors as

Lerone Bennett, Jr. and to such publishing standards as the New Ebony Cookbook. For those who would like to know more about the life and work of John H. Johnson, they also published his autobiography, *Succeeding Against the Odds*.

The Johnson Publishing empire also encompasses Fashion Fair Cosmetics and Supreme Beauty Products, headed by Mrs. Eunice Johnson. The Ebony Fashion Fair is the world's largest traveling fashion show and raises money for scholarships and charities in the United States and Canada.

John H. Johnson has received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Spingarn Medal, the Horatio Alger Award, the USC Journalism Alumni Association Distinguished Achievement Award, the Black Journalists' Lifetime Achievement Award and countless other awards and recognitions.

Awards are nice, but I suspect that Mr. Johnson takes the greatest pleasure in watching as his daughter, Linda Johnson Rice, joins him in managing Johnson Publishing as its president and chief operating officer.

Mr. Speaker, John H. Johnson's dream has profoundly influenced America and its people. We are all impacted for the better by his vision and his implementation of that first of our great freedoms, the freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

On September 26, Howard University will be holding its 136th opening convocation and will celebrate the accomplishments of communications pioneer John H. Johnson. In January, Mr. Johnson made a \$4 million contribution to the School of Communication at Howard, which will be renamed in his honor. Mr. Johnson, a firm believer in education, is a great contributor to the United Negro College Fund and many other charities.

Mr. Speaker, John H. Johnson may truly be said to be one of America's greatest living treasures. I congratulate him and his family for their contributions to America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2555, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-281) on the resolution (H. Res. 374) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2555)

making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2557, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-282) on the resolution (H. Res. 375) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2557) to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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NOT ALL DOOM AND GLOOM IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, this last Sunday in the Minneapolis Star Tribune on the front page of the opinion section was a picture in Iraq, and above this picture it says, "Look at this picture. What do you see?" And then it lists a couple of counterpoints, including one from myself. If you look at the picture, you see a market in Mosul, and you see some fruits up front, you see some women dressed in clean, neat clothes. You see a market with the shelves full, and you see a U.S. soldier from the 101st Airborne watching over that market and making sure that it stays secure.

Some in this Chamber have expressed doom and gloom as to what they see. As we listen to the articles in the paper and the TV and the radio, too often we hear that saying, doom and gloom. But there is a different picture that I am going to try to, with several of my colleagues, bring out today. Those who have been to Iraq, as I have, and many of my colleagues, have seen a different picture. There are two sides to this story, and I would argue that the story of advancement, of progress, of moving towards a democracy and an open government, an open economy, is the more accurate picture.

I was challenged recently by someone back home in Minnesota who said, Mark, why is not anybody else saying anything positive about Iraq? And my answer would be, well, I am not sure that anybody is reaching beyond some of the press they are getting, because not everybody is going to Iraq, not everybody is looking at other sources.

Mr. Speaker, it was Thomas Jefferson who said that you would be better educated if you read nothing than if you read nothing but papers, newspapers, and that is, unfortunately, the case in this situation.

Mr. Speaker, the press does a better job of reporting crashes than landings. We are certainly having great reporting of the crashes, but the landings and the progress that we have seen, with progress towards quality of life, progress towards getting Iraqis governing themselves, and progress towards more stability, more freedom in a country that is very diverse and has great potential is something that we are going to try to bring out here today.

As I mentioned, I will have several folks joining me, and I would, first of all, like to welcome the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) for some comments that he has.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota. The gentleman has actually been to Iraq, he has been to Baghdad, and he has seen on the ground many of these things of which we are speaking about tonight. As the gentleman points out, we are not really getting, if you rely just on 24-hour news and the newspapers and coverage, we are not really getting the whole picture, the full picture. I am glad that the gentleman was part of a group that recently was in Iraq who could see for themselves and understand that, as he points out, how much progress is being made.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of discussion, of course, about where the weapons of mass destruction are, where is Saddam Hussein, and, of course, we want answers to those questions. But what the public needs to understand is that progress is definitely being made. Nobody denies the existence of Saddam Hussein, and I think we will ultimately find him. But let me just point out a little bit of information that I think is important on this issue.

The Iraq Survey Group is tasked with the search for the weapons of mass destruction. The ISG has between 600 and 800 personnel in Iraq and is headed by former U.N. inspector David Kay. The Iraq Survey Group's highest priority is the hunt for weapons of mass destruction. They have formed quick reaction teams to explore sites indicated by intelligence. The Coalition Provision Authority has actually offered a reward of up to \$25 million for the capture of Saddam Hussein. And, of course, this same type of incentive is what led to the finding and the killing of Uday and Qusay.

So a lot of progress is being made. We have the inspectors on the ground, and we are following up on every lead. This is just one of the things that I wanted to point out, and the gentleman from Minnesota, of course, knows that because he has been there and he has seen it.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, one of the first things I did